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The Tech
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WEATHER, p. 2
THU: 68°F | 61°F Mostly Cloudy
FRI: 70°F | 45°F Mostly Cloudy
SAT: 55°F | 46°F Partly Cloudy

Volume 137, Number 30

Thursday, November 02, 2017

Future Vassar dorm to have 456 beds, optional meal plan

Students, admins compromise on kitchens, dining

By Sandhya Kalavacherla
STAFF REPORTER

The New Residences Working Group (NRWG), composed of eight students and staff members from the Division of Student Life and the Office of Campus Planning, met for the last time Sept. 20 to review the architectural plans for MIT's new dormitory on Vassar Street.

The NRWG originally wanted fully-equipped kitchens on each floor and 30 to 40 percent of the rooms to be singles. The administration ultimately decided on a hybrid dining hall and kitchen-and-pantry model new to MIT and 26 percent of the rooms being singles.

The dormitory is expected to open in fall of 2020, replacing the West Garage parking facility (W45).

Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart announced the dormitory's location in February, and many of its specifications, which included the prioritization of a dining hall and at least 450 beds, were publicized in March.

The dormitory will be five stories tall. Floors 2 through 5 are set to be residential floors with four clusters, three for student rooms and one for dorm-wide lounge use. The student clusters will comprise a total of 456 beds (Maseeh, the largest residence hall, has 490 beds). There will also be three study rooms on each residential floor.

The dormitory features a hybrid dining hall and kitchen-and-pantry model that is new to MIT. Students can choose to be on a meal plan or cook for themselves using the kitchen spaces and pantry supplies.

These updates were shared with a portion of the general student body through an Oct. 13 email sent by NRWG member Allan Sadun '17 to the public dorm-of-the-future mailing list.

In the email, Sadun wrote that details that remain to be finalized include how the dorm will be governed and furnished, and how the kitchen-and-pantry payment plan will work.

The NRWG was charged with implementing the concepts of the Architectural Principles document in the new dormitory and working in different committees to influence the architectural design decisions.

During the pre-design process, the NRWG and the administration disagreed on several fronts, such as the kitchen spaces. The working group requested larger, more fully-equipped kitchens on each floor. However, the final design includes a dining hall and small kitchenettes on each floor with one larger kitchen on the ground floor.

Other disagreements included the distribution of rooms. While the Architectural Principles document recommended that 30 to 40 percent of rooms be singles, the new dormitory's rooms will be 26 percent singles — slightly higher than Maseeh, 21 percent of whose rooms are singles.

"My primary complaint with the administration is not that our preferences were not always chosen; it is that the large-scale decisions about the dorm were not made with very much transparen-

Dorm, Page 2

JOHNNY BUI—THE TECH

MIT students in Halloween costumes take to the ice Oct. 27 at the Johnson Ice Rink at SaveTFP-organized "Spooky Skate", where students could enter a costume contest, decorate cookies, carve and paint pumpkins, and skate on the ice for free.

TRISTAN HONSCHEIND—THE TECH

Following the conclusion of the annual Pumpkin Drop on Saturday night, the audience celebrates in the large field of debris outside of the Green Building.

Theta Tau joins IFC following second vote

Revision of admission policies allowed for earlier revote after initial failed bid

By Jessica Shi
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) admitted the MIT chapter of Theta Tau, a professional engineering fraternity, as a probationary member Oct. 12.

Robert Binkowski '18, president of the IFC, announced the result in an email. With Theta Tau's addition, the IFC now consists of 26 member chapters.

Last fall, the IFC rejected Theta Tau's initial petition, according to the minutes of a November 2016 meeting of the Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG) board, a group of alumni which coordinates with the IFC. Theta Tau was initially allowed to reapply for admission in the spring of 2018.

But in a February 2017 AILG meeting, Binkowski announced that the IFC would adopt "a constitutional amendment to resolve

Theta Tau, Page 2

IN SHORT

The last day to add half-term subjects offered in second half of term is this Friday.

MIT Medical will expand its Urgent Care hours in November. Urgent Care will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days a week.

Relax and pet dogs at Furry First Friday this Friday from 2:00–3:30 p.m. outside the Hayden Library.

Send news and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu.*

SABRINA CHENG

"Course Sax" plays chamber music at MIT's Annual Family Weekend Concert in the Kresge Auditorium Oct. 27.

Fundraising campaign hits $3.9B

Donations to go towards New House renovations, graduate housing

By Tu-Lan Vu-Han

The MIT Campaign for a Better World has received $3.6 billion in donations as of the end of the 2017 fiscal year, 17 months after its official launch in May 2016. It is 76 percent of the way toward its $5 billion goal.

Over 87,000 donors have contributed to the Campaign. 71 percent of the donations were from alumni, 26 percent from parents and friends of the Institute, and 3 percent from corporations and foundations.

Donations ranged from under $5 to single donation sums of more than $100 million. This year's record was an unrestricted single donation of $140 million from an anonymous donor.

The Campaign for A Better World is the largest giving campaign in MIT history. "The past three years have been record setting, with sums over $500 million raised each year," Aimée Jack, interim executive director for communications and events of the MIT Department for Resource Development, wrote in an email to *The Tech.*

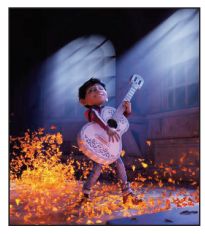
Projects that have been realized with money from the campaign include student financial aid, the Abdul Latif Jameel World Education Lab (J-WEL), the new Hock E. Tan and K. Lisa Yang Center for Autism Research at the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT, and the work-in-progress MIT.nano. The renovations of New House, new undergraduate residence hall on Vassar Street, and graduate student resident tower near Kendall Square are also expected to be funded by the campaign money.

CAMPUS SNAPSHOTS

This week: cute costumes and Nobel laureates. **NEWS, p. 8**

REVIVAL OF 200-YEAR OLD OPERA COMES TO BOSTON

Odyssey Opera performs Donizetti's *L'assedio di Calais,* set during the Hundred Years' War. **ARTS, p. 5**



BTS WITH ARTIST FROM PIXAR'S COCO

Dean Kelley previews scenes from upcoming film about Land of the Dead at an LCS event. **ARTS, p. 4**

PUBBING AN EVENT?

Posters along the Infinite are taken down Monday & Friday mornings. Pin accordingly!

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WEATHER

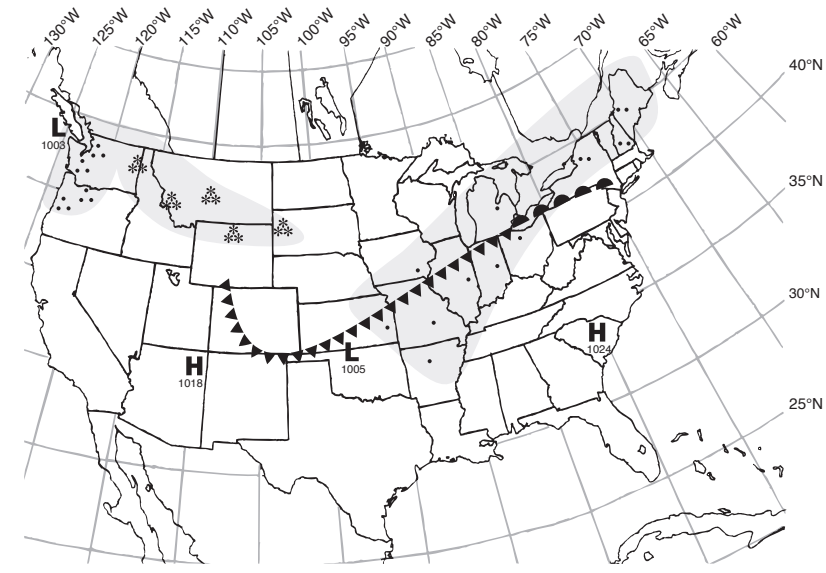
Recent storm causes disruption across the Northeast

By Tafsia Shikdar and Sarah Weidman

On Sunday night, the northeast experienced its first Nor'easter of the season, with strong winds and heavy rain hitting Boston and the surrounding area. In Boston, wind gusts topped out around 60 miles per hour; a peak gust of 93 mph was recorded on the Cape. These winds were strong enough to fell several trees, blocking roads and causing damage. Farther north in New Hampshire and Maine, many counties experienced significant power outages and school cancellations on Monday. In fact, Maine experienced its highest single storm outage as nearly 500,000 residents lost power, and over 1 million people were left in the dark across New England. Luckily, this week will be much calmer, with mostly cloudy days, and a chance for a few showers as a low pressure system slides through New England over the weekend. Today and tomorrow will remain warm with highs near 70 °F in advance of a cold front that will push through Friday evening; temperatures over the weekend and into next week should be more seasonable.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a high of 68°F (20°C). South wind of around 10 mph.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a low of 61°F (16°C). South wind of around 10 mph.
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy with a high of 70°F (21°C) and a low of 45°F (7°C). Southwest wind of around 10 mph.
Saturday: Partly cloudy with a high of 55°F (13°C) and a low of 46°F (8°C).
Sunday: Chance of showers. High of 58°F (14°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, November 02, 2017

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols
			Snow	Rain	
H High Pressure	Trough	Showers	*	▽	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Light	*	•	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	Moderate	**	••	Haze
	Stationary Front	Heavy	⁂	∴	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

New dorm to open in fall 2020

Dorm, from Page 1

cy or student input," Sadun wrote in an email to *The Tech.*

DormCon Vice President Allie Stanton '18 disagreed with Sadun.

In an email to *The Tech*, Stanton wrote that DormCon representatives on the NRWG "consistently sought feedback from the DormCon presidents on what they would like to see in the new dorm."

DormCon Vice President Yuge Ji '18 further explained in an email to *The Tech* that the MIT administration tried "to find a halfway point or a workaround" to accommodate student requests.

Vice President of Student Life Suzy Nelson told *The Tech* in a phone interview that the "art to [this process] is a lot of listening to find a compromise that works primarily for students" but also "with the city, stakeholders, and colleagues who have real priorities and constraints that affect the process."

Some of these constraints, Nelson said, included meeting a perceived demand for a dining dorm and being usable for summer conferences and occupants.

Robert Binkowski '18, another NRWG member and president of MIT's Interfraternity Council, echoed Nelson's comments. In an email interview with *The Tech*, Binkowski said, "Student input was one of many inputs that [the administration] was balancing."

Nelson cited several examples where student input was crucial: the main pathway to move through the building, bathroom placements, entryway structures, and the hybrid dining hall and kitchen-and-pantry model.

According to Ji, the next generation of DormCon leadership will form a Founders' Group "to guide the finer points of what this dorm will become." They expect the group to start meeting in fall 2018 once construction is underway so it can include some members of the Class of 2022.

"Ultimately, a dorm is shaped by the students who live there, and we're confident that that will be true for this dorm as well," Stanton said.

The last dorm built from the ground up was Simmons Hall, which was commissioned in 1999 and opened in 2002.

Theta Tau becomes 26th IFC member

Theta Tau, from Page 1

conflicts with the new recognition policy," allowing Theta Tau to be reconsidered sooner. Three months later, Jack Gordon '18, vice president of the IFC, reported to the AILG that the date had been moved to late September 2017.

Binkowski and Gordon did not respond to requests for comment on the reasons for these decisions.

The "new recognition policy" Binkowski referenced included changes to Article V, Section 3 of the IFC constitution, titled "Procedures for Recognition of Petitioning Groups."

Formerly, according to the 2014 IFC constitution, "a majority vote of all present and voting members at a meeting of the Presidents Council" was required for a petitioning group to be admitted. New groups started as associate members and could advance to probationary membership by a three-quarters vote.

Now, the progression has been reversed. A three-quarters vote is required for a petitioning group to be admitted as a probationary member, and new groups can advance to associate membership by a majority vote after an initial period of no less than one year, according to the latest published version of the constitution.

The process for making these revisions "stretched over a year and at times delayed what we hoped would be our timeline," Kyle Archer '18, current house manager and former regent (a position analogous to president) of Theta Tau, wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

As for why they were not admitted last year, "it was mostly because we were a young [group], and [the IFC] wanted us to prove that ... we've figured everything out," Jeremy Bogle '18, regent of Theta Tau, said in an interview with *The Tech.*

Theta Tau was established as a colony at MIT in April 2016. Its founding students included former members of Delta Upsilon (DU), and it is housed in the former DU residence on 526 Beacon Street. The MIT chapter of DU was suspended by the DU International Fraternity for two years in April 2014 following the report of ongoing hazing rituals.

Although they are still connected with DU alumni through the house, Theta Tau is a "completely new group" and "founded on new values," Bogle emphasized.

Theta Tau also gained chapter status in the spring of 2017, which Bogle credited as a major reason it succeeded in gaining admittance to the IFC this year. "We've come a long way from last fall to this fall in terms of defining Theta Tau," Bogle said.

Probationary members of the IFC cannot vote but can attend meetings and participate in IFC events and committees.

Theta Tau is "super excited" to be a part of the IFC, Bogle said. "We think we'll be able to learn a lot from the other chapters on campus."

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ch's MLB Ch

By *The Tech* Sports staff

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Series against Minnesota with ease to advar
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, the Philadelphia Phillies swept Cincinnati
ng a ho-hitter by Roy Halladay. They face the
ainst Atlanta in which every game was decic
claim their league pennant and advance to
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SEEKING LIFE BEYOND OUR PALE BLUE DOT

Julien de Wit is an exoplanet researcher in the MIT Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, who has developed and applied innovative analysis techniques to map exoplanet atmospheres. At our Sagan Day 2017 event, Dr de Wit will place our own pale blue dot within a cosmic perspective, by presenting and discussing his work on investigating solar systems beyond our own -- including the famed TRAPPIST-1 system of multiple temperate terrestrial planets.

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ARTS ARTS ARTS

OPERA REVIEW

I volunteer as tribute!

A joyous revival of Donizetti's *L'assedio di Calais*

L'assedio di Calais

Presented by Odyssey Opera

Conducted by Gil Rose; Directed by Joshua Major

Music by Gaetano Donizetti; Libretto by Salvatore Cammarano

By Alexandra Sourakov
STAFF WRITER

Gaetano Donizetti's operas, such as *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *L'elisir d'amore*, are some of the most frequently performed operas in the world, so there was quite a bit of excitement when *L'assedio di Calais*, which hadn't been performed since 1840, was revived in 1990 in Europe at the Bergamo Festival and just last year in the United States at the Glimmerglass Festival. Odyssey Opera put on this production as part of "Trial by Fire: Joan of Arc and the Hundred Years' War," a season-long exploration of operatic works inspired by martyr, saint, and military leader Joan of Arc.

In *L'assedio*, Donizetti explores a theme new to him: sacrificial patriotism. The opera centers on the 1346 siege of Calais when Edward III laid a year-long siege on the strategically valuable French port city during the Hundred Years' War. Brought to the brink of starvation, the citizens of the town parlayed for surrender. According to medieval records, Edward's terms for sparing the lives of the city's people was the execution of six volunteer victims. The mayor and five other citizens walking out of the city gates with nooses around their necks is a scene that not only inspired playwrights and composers, but also lead to one of Rodin's most famous sculptures, The Burghers of Calais. The burghers are saved by the timely intervention of Queen Philippa of Hainault, the consort of Edward III, who believed that killing the six citizens would bring bad luck to her unborn child. This story, with its happy ending and coup de théâtre, neatly fit Eugene Scribe's French convention of a "well-made play," and apparently, a well-made opera.

L'assedio di Calais brings us in close contact with the brave men and women of Calais. Right off the bat, we're reeled in by the poignant, soaring soprano of Lucia Cesaroni, who plays Aurelio's wife, Eleonora. Magda Gartner, who plays a pants role as fiery and proud Aurelio, delivers a stunning performance. At times, I worried that such raw power coming from such a petite figure would result in a small conflagration in stage. James Westman's rich, booming baritone, the voice of the mayor of Calais, pairs wonderfully in duets with the soaring sopranos. The Odyssey Opera chorus was spectacular, playing a motley array of English soldiers and Calais citizens, and for the most part, keeping up with the orchestra conducted by Gil Rose.

Unlike in typical 19th century Italian opera, the focus of Donizetti's pieces is not on show-stopping solos or prima donnas (like Tosca). Arias meld into duets, which coalesce into catchy, rhythmic ensemble pieces. The music is cheery, even when Aurelio is describing his nightmare about his son being slaughtered by English soldiers (because what's the point of being gloomy about it?). Donizetti, along with Bellini and Rossini, is one of the masters of the bel canto opera style. This operatic style is characterized by an emphasis on the virtuosity of the performance rather than on its romantic or emotional quality, and the virtuosity was most definitely on display in this production.

I enjoyed the flirtatious pairing of John Allen Nelson (baritone) and Deborah Selig (soprano) as king and queen. Selig arrives deus ex machina style at the last moment, heavily pregnant (word on the street: not with Edward's child) and very regal. Her interpretation of the queen's role adds some believability to an otherwise dubious moment in history. Eleonora and the other women of Calais burst out of the city gates to plead for mercy for the lives of their husbands, fathers, and brothers. The queen looks pityingly at the baby in Eleonora's arms and strokes her protruding belly, seemingly struck in that moment by motherly instinct. Her plaintive entreaty to her husband leads into the joyful chorus that concludes the opera.

Odyssey Opera's production has a somewhat more homespun feel than the polished productions staged in large, chilly theatres. Perhaps this is deliberate on the part of the directors, in an effort to make the opera feel more relatable to the human experience. Odyssey Opera is a relative newcomer in the operatic world, having been founded in 2013, but it has rapidly established itself as a purveyor of excellent and original productions, such as *L'assedio di Calais*. I look forward to the continuation of the Trial by Fire arc in Dello Joio's *The Trial at Rouen* on Dec. 1.

COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND BLACK BEAR PICTURES

Left to right: Noah Jupe as Nicky and Tony Espinosa as Andy Mayers in *Surburbicon*.

MOVIE REVIEW

These people do not deserve to go to Aruba

Surburbicon is a feeble attempt to tackle racism that bled trying

★★★☆☆

Surburbicon

Directed by George Clooney

Screenplay written by George Clooney, Joel Coen, Ethan Coen and Grant Heslov

Starring Matt Damon, Julianne Moore, Noah Jupe, Oscar Isaac

Rated R, now playing

By Ivy Li
ARTS EDITOR

Surburbicon's trailer marketed the film as a subversive look into 1950s suburbia — the white picketed perfection has been satirized well enough by 2017 — as a good-natured man finds himself murdering another. Imagine my surprise when the film opens to a black family moving into a white neighborhood while white supremacists — i.e. every white person but the main Lodge family — plan to expel their newcomers. Soon, the Lodge family from the trailer is introduced, not in the form of the murderous father, but his son, Nicky Lodge (Noah Jupe).

Surburbicon plays the absurd. The Lodge family is attacked by two robbers out of nowhere. The mother, Rose Lodge (Julianne Moore), is killed by chloroform. We find that this is a film about absurdly terrible people, and no, it's never the robbers in surburbia. Neighbors are aggressive beyond reason to the black family — white flight apparently was not a consideration — and no crime happens in the idyllic utopia of *Surburbicon* except for every decision by Gardner Lodge (Matt Damon) and Rose's sister, Margaret (Julianne Moore), essentially the plot of this film. Only the children and the black family remain guilt-free, victimized by the murderous, gruesome acts of the adults around them. It's awkwardly laughable, because there are no fatherly behaviors from a very unlikeable father; only a son who is volleyed around, and the suburban residents have one track minds.

We have two storylines: the subplot with the black family — which shows that bravery involves withstanding one's neighbors? — and the "main" storyline of the white Lodge family, in which the father is a mean bastard and leaves his son as a bastard. At first, I thought it was a lesson on cowardice, comparing the two families. But by the end, we never know anything about the black family other than their victimhood while we know all too much about the Lodge family. Perhaps Nicky is better off without his family, because despite his mild manners, his father is the worst kind of coward: the kind you cannot root for because he believes his cowardice is not a flaw at all. Gardner is, colloquially speaking, a douchebag. He wants to run off with his wife's sister to Aruba and abandon his son to a disciplined military school, hires two people to murder his wife (yet he cannot pay the murderers, hence the film), and has no considerations for anyone but himself. He goes from victim of robbery to murderer of his wife to corpse by sandwich (yes, he died eating a sandwich), and the only wonderful part of this absurd plot is his death.

In retrospect, there wasn't much of a point in the end. The people who died died of their own callous mistakes (and deserved it). There wasn't much heroism to root for, so all one can do is hate the perpetrators. The film ends as Nicky and the black family's son (who is never named) play ball over the fence. One survived the onslaught of his family while their other survived the neighbors. It's hard to say what they will do now, because as the camera pans out, we see the baseball going back and forth, back and forth, as if that was all they could do: play ball.

ARTS ARTS ARTS

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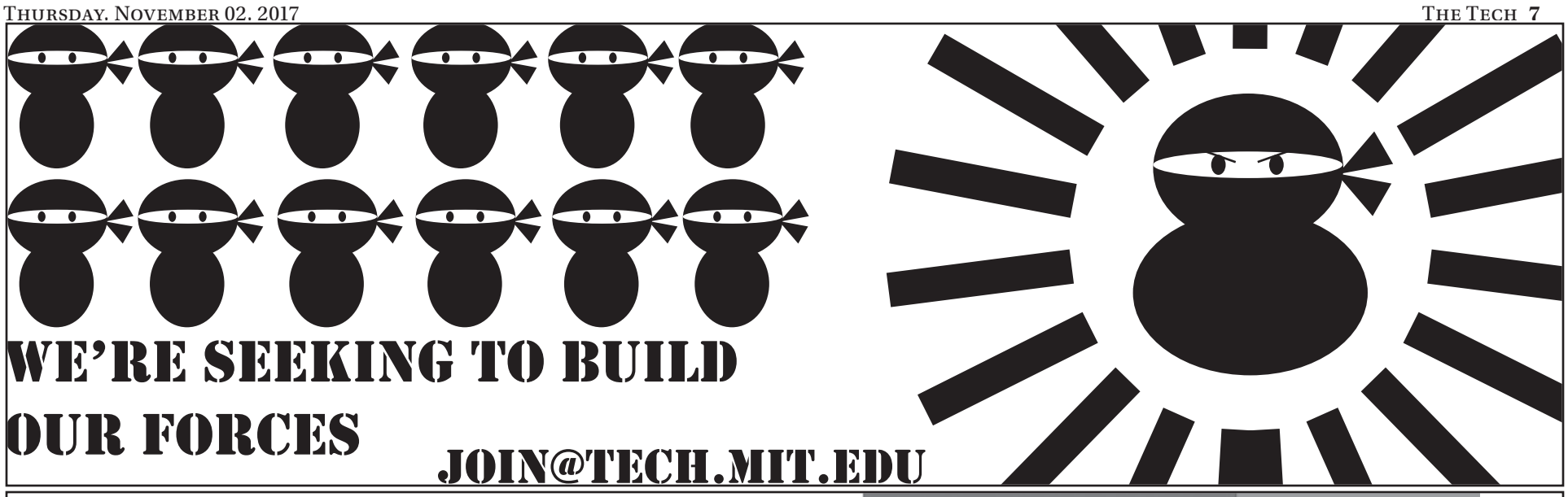

#ThisisMIT
Video contest for MIT Students!
bit.ly/thisismit
Create a video and show the world what you do outside of the classroom.
Videos may be shared on MIT's main social channels.
Winners get TechCASH!
Division of Student Life

This space donated by *The Tech*

JOHNNY BUI—THE TECH

Jean Tirole, winner of the 2014 Nobel Prize in Economics and author of the book "Economics for the Common Good", is interviewed by a faculty member of the MIT Department of Economics in front of a filled lecture hall Oct. 26.

JOHNNY BUI—THE TECH

A young child dressed as a fierce lion poses in front of carved pumpkins during "Spooky Science", a Halloween-themed event on Oct. 26 hosted by the MIT Postdoctoral Association. Attendees were able to vote for the best carved pumpkin, make their own Halloween decorations, and have their face painted.

MIT WELLNESS FAIR
MMXVII
Friday, Nov. 3 2-5 PM
Zesiger Center
DSL | Division of Student Life
MindHandHeart

Solution to Grim

from page 6

5	3	1	7	9	2	4	8	6
9	4	8	6	1	5	3	7	2
7	6	2	3	8	4	1	5	9
4	1	5	9	2	7	6	3	8
2	9	3	5	6	8	7	1	4
8	7	6	4	3	1	2	9	5
3	2	9	8	7	6	5	4	1
1	8	4	2	5	3	9	6	7
6	5	7	1	4	9	8	2	3

Solution to sMITe

from page 6

3	8	7	9	6	5	1	4	2
1	6	5	3	2	4	7	9	8
2	9	4	7	8	1	5	6	3
6	2	1	4	7	8	3	5	9
9	4	8	6	5	3	2	1	7
5	7	3	2	1	9	4	8	6
4	1	6	8	3	7	9	2	5
8	3	9	5	4	2	6	7	1
7	5	2	1	9	6	8	3	4

Solution to Extremes

from page 6

R	A	T	■	D	A	G	■	A	K	C	■	C	O	W
E	V	E	■	E	R	R	■	U	N	O	■	A	H	A
D	I	E	■	B	R	I	S	T	O	L	■	S	I	R
C	A	T	■	T	O	P	T	O	B	O	T	T	O	M
A	T	O	Z	■	W	E	E	■	■	R	U	R	A	L
R	O	T	O	R	S	■	M	R	S	■	B	O	N	Y
D	R	A	N	O	■	S	T	A	R	E	■	■	■	■
■	■	L	E	F	T	T	O	R	I	G	H	T	■	■
■	■	■	L	O	O	S	E	■	G	O	A	T	S	■
C	O	R	Y	■	O	P	T	■	A	S	P	I	R	E
A	R	E	A	S	■	■	E	R	N	■	S	L	I	M
B	A	C	K	T	O	F	R	O	N	T	■	O	B	I
A	T	E	■	A	V	E	N	G	E	R	■	R	U	N
N	O	D	■	M	E	T	■	U	A	E	■	E	T	A
A	R	E	■	P	R	E	■	E	L	K	■	D	E	L

EVENT
Furry First Friday
Relax with four-legged friends from Dog BONES: Therapy Dogs of Massachusetts
November, 2, 2-3:30pm
Hayden Library, 14S-100
MITLibraries

Know something important we should write about?

(*We probably don't know about it.*)

Let us know.

news@tech.mit.edu